

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Christ the King
22nd November 2020

Hello everyone!

I hope that I find you well and in good spirits!

As I have said publically in the past, I find the feast of 'Christ the King' a little difficult because it all sounds so militant, triumphant and imposing and regal etc.

In Matthew's Gospel this weekend, there seems a disconnect with the 'rule of God's Kingdom' as we would expect 'one to rule' and the nature of how that 'rule / reign' is actually exercised through Matthew 25. Maybe 'Christ the Servant'; 'Christ the One Who Stoops to the Less Fortunate'; 'Christ the Worker' - would summarize this feast better. Am I dreaming?

Is Christ not currently 'ruling' the world as we would hope?

Is 'the world' sometimes confused by its own spirituality?

Are we as a church sometimes confused as well?

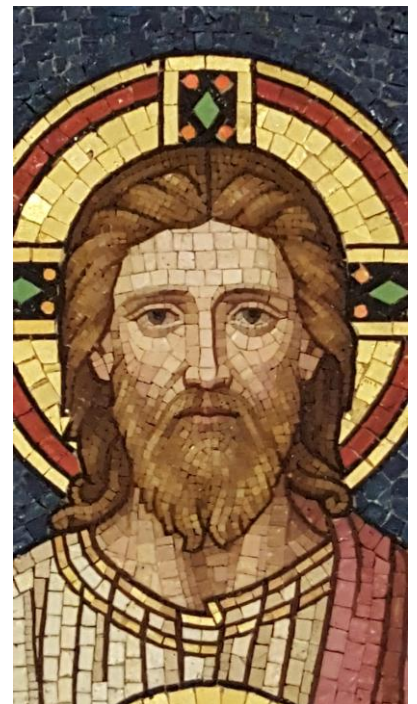
What is and how do we define our current spiritual identity? Why don't people take us seriously anymore? What are we offering people - within and without the 'church' - to enable their spiritual growth and nourishment? Why would they come to church anyway?

My theme for Advent this year will be - "Don't do church - do GOD!" - inspired by an article I found in November's Melbourne Anglican. You know I've talked about the 'verandah' and creating spaces for others to explore their faith in the context of our beloved church / faith community.

Well, the plan is to act. Gently. Prayerfully. Boldly.

What does the Lord require of you; a) "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8); and, b) Matthew 25!

With every blessing, Rev James



Coffee ZOOM Tuesday!

Catch all the 'good news' and a bit more besides Tuesday at 9.30am via ZOOM. Link sent via email or ask Rev for details.



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond: +Garry; for all we love – near and far away; Sandra and Andy Taylor; for our Indoor Services and preparation for Advent; for all those at home supporting our farmers and truck drivers; Project REGENERATE.

Community: Front-line health care workers; those suffering from confusion; for all dealing with grief; for all in SA; for perseverance and empathy.

Years Mind: Michael Verber, Beverly Kaal, Donald Merritt, William Clarke, Lisa Curtis, Helen Patterson

'Christ the King' YouTube from Rev:

Returning 'BALANCE' to the World
<https://youtu.be/TXGF596xXss>

Bishop Garry's YouTube message:

'Two Talents'

<https://youtu.be/osB4im6Ae8s>



Kilometres travelled

1,902.20

Pledged & Donated

\$8,049.09

Rev will be at the Warrack Markets this Saturday 21 Nov from 9.00-1.00pm aiming to cycle into 2000kms. Come and say hello!

Want to give a grain of wheat -
to produce a harvest
opportunity within our parish?



Donations of grain - of any
quantity can be made using the
Church's NGR number:

NGR 12439740

Coffee Van Project

This Sunday - 22nd November
Outside the Visitor's Centre
Warracknabeal - 9.00am-1.00pm



Good Coffee!

Good vibe!

Giving young people an
opportunity to gain
skills and serve their
community.

Indoor Service Times November/December

There are still quite a few places left at our services in the Parish Centre, so if you haven't been able to make it to one of the services so far – you won't be jeopardizing anyone's place.

Bookings remain essential!

We will begin Holy Communion Services next week – Advent 1, and I suspect that there maybe some who have been waiting to join us for these services.

I suggest that you contact me immediately to book your place.

Communion will be in one kind as per Diocesan guidelines.

Due to COVIDSafe cleaning regime requirements, and to ensure the safety of all who attend our services, we will be worshipping in the Parish Centre for the start of Advent. As I am offering multiple services for as many people as possible to attend church – there just isn't enough time to clean the church as required in-between services due to the nature of church layout and pew configuration.

The COVIDSafe Warden and I are trying to find a way to celebrate Christmas in the church. Suffice to say – it won't be the same as we have celebrated for the last couple of years. I need to check with Parish Council on Tuesday that we are all on the same page – so we can make the necessary preparations.

Thank you for your patience!

Christ the King - November 22nd

9.30am & 12.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
Coffee Van – 9.00am–1.00pm

Advent 1 - November 29th

9.30am & 12.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
10.30am – ZOOM Church
5.00pm SHINE Youth Group

Advent 2 - December 06th

9.30am & 4.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
11.00am – Areegra
5.00pm - SHINE Youth Group

Advent 3 – December 13th

9.30am & 12.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
10.30am - ZOOM Church

Christmas Services will be advertised next week!

TODAY'S READINGS

CHRIST THE KING

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-

A reading from the book of Ezekiel

“For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and make them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice. “Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says to them: see, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken. This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 100

Response: *We are his people: the sheep of his flock*

1. O shout to the Lord in triumph, all the earth:
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his face with songs of joy. **(R)**
2. Know that the Lord he is God:
it is he who has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. **(R)**
3. Come into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise:
give thanks to him, and bless his holy name. **(R)**
4. For the Lord is good, his loving mercy is for ever:
his faithfulness throughout all generations. **(R)**

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and

his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ‘Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” ‘Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?” ‘The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” ‘Then he will say to those on his left, “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was ill and in prison and you did not look after me.” ‘They also will answer, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or ill or in prison, and did not help you?” ‘He will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.” ‘Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.’

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness and come before his face with songs of joy.

Collect: God of power and love, who raised your Son Jesus from death to life, resplendent in glory to rule over all creation: free the world to rejoice in his peace, to glory in his justice, and to live in his love. Unite the human race in Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

'Don't do church, do God', UK theologian tells preaching festival

Page 7: November Melbourne Anglican - <http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/>

Christians needed to focus more on humility and activism and, in general, “do God” rather than “do church”, leading Anglican theologian Martyn Percy told the UK’s Church Times Festival of Preaching. “Churches doing things is usually far better than churches saying things,” said Dr Percy. “Yet our current ecclesiastical culture thinks if we could only do church better – whether that’s messy, fresh, traditional or alternative – many more would flood through the doors. “I have a retort ... don’t do church, do God.”

Dr Percy, who was appointed Dean of Christ Church Oxford in 2014, has a progressive stance on social issues and has been critical of Justin Welby’s “managerial style” leadership as Archbishop of Canterbury. In his lecture, he referred to a statement made by Alastair Campbell, an adviser to UK Prime Minister Tony Blair: “We don’t do God”. Mr Campbell said this when Mr Blair was asked by an interviewer about his religious faith. Christians, unfortunately, often did not “do God”, said Dr Percy. “Christians are only meant to do one thing – we are meant to do God. This is the point of being a Christian. “One problem is that we think by attending to the abstract – the church in this case perhaps – we fix the problem.”

Dr Percy said some of the solutions offered to fix the church included better management, better professionalism and techniques for increasing church attendance. “Others say we can’t fix the church anymore, we best leave it alone and then do something entirely new – a kind of boutique gathering that targets niche markets. Let’s leave inherited church behind for some vague, gestating shape.”

But Dr Percy said that none of these solutions was helpful or relevant. “They don’t deal with the fundamental problem ... it’s you, it’s me, it’s us. Because we shouldn’t be doing church first, we should be doing God.” An example of not “doing God” was Christians who all too easily collapse into niceness and politeness, with civility substituting for charity, said Dr Percy. “Too often Christians are happy to be witnesses but not activists. We watch and we comment as bystanders but we prefer not to get involved. Churches develop all too easily a kind of institutionalised muteness, selective blindness, partial deafness.” Jesus, he noted, was not like this. Jesus was keenly sensitive towards pain, alienation, injustice and marginalisation, as well as apathy and indifference. “Time and time again Jesus called out his audiences on their apathy and indifference,” he said. At the same time, Jesus was humble. “In his humility he becomes receptive to the Gentiles, he learns to receive from the world around him and he offers us a pattern of polity and discipleship which I think is the way forward beyond our current crisis.”

Dr Percy said that Jesus was not just the Word of God, he was the “verb” of God “–doing” God. Provided Christians could learn to “do God” and the church could “get off its high horse”, the end result would be a far better church. The church would be a “grounded, authentic, listening, learning church that understands it has much to receive from the world”.

[Martyn William Percy (born 31 July 1962) is a British Anglican priest and theologian. He has been the Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, since October 2014^[3] and was previously Principal of Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford.]

Unto the Least of These

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' " Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV)



W L J R R S I C A Y N G D H T
 B D S X L E V O A K J L H M T
 D R R E O A D M S O Z B I N A
 E Y G I S T H E I B P Y D F I
 X N J G N U X E C N F J T C E
 A X E A K K W B K J S E R J K
 N L U D V V S H E P H E R D I
 Z C F A T H E R H U N G R Y N
 T P L T T S T R A N G E R Y G
 E H R O X N G T X T H R O N E
 L N I I T Q X E T E R N A L W
 R E F R S H A B R O T H E R S
 D G A N S O E M B L E S S E D
 C N P S T T N D Y C V P C D Q
 N K E Q T P Y F W U G L O R Y

CLOTHED	SHEPHERD	HUNGRY	KING	STRANGER
LEAST	BLESSED	THRONE	SICK	EAT
GLORY	LIFE	ANGELS	DRINK	THIRSTY
BROTHERS	FATHER	ETERNAL	PRISON	COME

Project REGENERATE

Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE.

Please continue to pray for God's guidance, courage and protection as we seek to regenerate the parish through our 5 year vision in thought, word and action.